

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-20 have been amended and Claims 21-24 have been added. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found at least in paragraphs [0035]-[0052] of the published specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-24 are now pending in this application.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 3 of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,804,232 to Donaghey (hereinafter “Donaghey”). Independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants respectfully submit that Donaghey fails to disclose at least one element recited in each of independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part, that “the association identifier uniquely identifies the station.” Amended independent Claims 6, 11, and 16, although different in scope, recite similar elements. Applicants respectfully submit that Donaghey fails to disclose such elements.

On page 4 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner analogized the “personal electronic device (PEA) 120” of Donaghey to the claimed “station” and the “stream number 620” of Donaghey to the claimed “association identifier,” respectively. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the “stream number 620” of Donaghey does not “uniquely identify” the “PEA 120.” As such, Donaghey fails to disclose an “association identifier [that] uniquely identifies the station,” as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16.

Column 3, lines 28-34 of Donaghey states (with emphasis added):

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a PAN 100 consistent with the present invention. The PAN 100 includes a single Hub device 110

surrounded by multiple Personal Electronic Accessory (PEA) devices 120 configured in a star topology.... Each device is identified by a Media Access (MAC) address.

Column 3, lines 55-63 of Donaghey states (with emphasis added):

The Hub 110 and PEAs 120 communicate using multiplexed communication over a predefined set of streams. Logically, a stream is a one-way communications link between one PEA 120 and its Hub 110. Each stream has a predetermined size and direction. The Hub 110 uses stream numbers to identify communication channels for specific functions (e.g., data and control).

The Hub 110 uses MAC addresses to identify itself and the PEAs 120.

Accordingly, Donaghey discloses that the “stream numbers” are used to “identify the communication channels” and not the “PEAs 120.” Donaghey further discloses that each “PEA 120” is identified by a “Media Access (MAC) address.” As such, Donaghey fails to disclose that the “PEAs 120” are “uniquely identified” by the “stream numbers.”

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Donaghey fails to disclose an “association identifier [that] uniquely identifies the station,” as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 8 of the Final Office Action, Claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Donaghey and U.S. Patent No. 6,067,444 to Cannon (hereinafter “Cannon”). Applicants respectfully submit that Donaghey and Cannon fail to disclose, teach, or suggest at least one element recited in each of independent Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 (from which Claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 depend, respectively).

As discussed above, Donaghey fails to disclose an “association identifier [that] uniquely identifies the station,” as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16. Applicants respectfully submit that Cannon fails to cure this deficiency of Donaghey. On page 8 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner relied on Cannon merely for its alleged disclosure that an “association identifier has 11 bits.” However, Cannon fails to disclose, teach, or suggest an “association identifier [that] uniquely identifies the station,” as recited in Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

* * *

It is submitted that each outstanding objection and rejection to the Application has been overcome and that the Application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of all pending claims.

It should also be noted that although arguments have been presented with respect to certain claims herein, the recited subject matter as well as various other subject matter and/or combinations of subject matter may be patentable for other reasons. Further, the failure to address any statement by the Examiner herein should not be interpreted as acquiescence or agreement with such statement. Applicant expressly reserves the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability and/or allowance with the present Application or in any other future proceeding, and to rebut any statement presented by the Examiner in this or other papers during prosecution of the present Application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present Application.

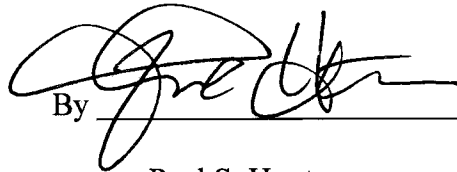
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit

card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extension of time is needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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